Chapter 6 - Sections 1 & 2.

EDRAY METHODIST CHURCH - 1883

When Hamlin Chapel on Stony Creek became too small for the number of people who worshiped there, they felt the need for a new church, so those living near Edray decided to build a church at Edray.

The date of the deed was June 17, 1882 - The land was given by Nathan and Margaret G. Barlow, 121 poles adjoining the turnpike road. The deed was made to George P. Moore, Samuel B. Moore, William M. Sharp, Henry Barlow, and Thomas Auldridge, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This was a Northern Methodist Church until the Methodist Churches united. However, all denominations were welcomed here. It is located about one-fourth mile from the village of Edray on Route # 219.

Mr. E. D. King was the contractor and boarded at Mr. Samuel B. Moore's. John Hull was a carpenter under Mr. King. Messrs. James and George W. McCollum were the stone masons and built the foundation and chimney. Some of the members hauled lumber and some furnished lumber by way of paying their part. The church was paid for by subscription and a very substantial collection was received at the dedication. This was used to help pay for the church.

Rev. A. M. Chappell was the pastor at the time this church was built. The Hamlin Chapel and Edray Church have always been served by the same pastor.

When the Edray Church was built, the Hamlin Chapel congregation worshiped at this church for twenty-three years and abandoned the Hamlin Chapel for that length of time.

Mrs. Anna L. Price, wife of Dr. William T. Price wrote the words to a hymn that was sung at the dedication of the Edray Church. Mrs. Price was a poet and published two volumes of verses.

This church building is a large frame building with a seating capacity of five hundred. The church has always been too large for the congregation. However, the object in building such a large church was in order to have room for large gatherings such as protracted meetings, conventions, funerals, etc.

Shortly after the Edray church was completed, the County Teachers' Institute was held here for a number of years, or until after Marlinton had begun to develop and they were held there.

Among those who were influential in building the Edray Church and were the first members, were:

Rev. George P. Moore, who was licensed to preach in 18

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Moore

Mr. John Barlow

Mr. Anderson Barlow

Mr. Davis Barlow

Mr. A. R. Gay

Mrs. Josephine Mann

Henry Barlow

William M. and Julia F. Sharp

Thomas Muldridge

Josiah Barlow and family

Isaac Sharp and family

Rankin Poage

A. J. Smith and family

Aaron Moore who lived a mile below Marlinton.

George K. Gay and wife.

James Muldridge and family, who came from Red Lick about four miles from Edray. They walked and were present at every service of any kind that was held in the church.

The pastors who have served this congregation from 1776 to the present time, are:

1876 - 1878 Rev. J. C. Wickline
1878 - 1879 " A. W. Richardson
1879 - 1880 " Geo. P. Moore
1880 - 1882 " D. C. Hedrick
1882 - 1883 " J. C. Wickline
1883 - 1885 " A. M. Chappell
1885 - 1886 " George Spencer
1887 - 1888 " R. H. Clark
1889 - 1894 " S. C. Morgan
1894 - 1899 " W. A. Sharp
1899 - 1901 " M. W. Atkinson
1901 - 1904 " A. M. Crabtree

1904 - 1905 Rev. C. M. Neff

1905 - 1909 " George W. Marston

1909 - 1913 " Ira F. Rickett

1913 - 1916 " H. A. Coffman

1916 - 1920 " M. M. Ramsey

1920 - 1923 " C. A. Powers

1923 - 1929 " N. S. Hill

1929 - 1933 " T. H. Taylor

1933 - 1936 " D. R. Carder

1936 - 1938 " D. J. Combs

1938 - present Rev. R. H. Skaggs

The trustees at the time the church was built were:

Rev. Geo. P. Moore

Samuel B. Moore

Wm. M. Sharp

Henry Barlow

Thomas Muldridge

This church at the present time has about twenty-five active members. They have preaching services the first and third Sundays of each month.

The trustees for 1940 & 1941 are:

Asa C. Barlow

Collet Gay

Robert Gay

The Stewards are:

Robert Gay

- Frank Young

Mrs. S. R. Moore

There has always been a Sunday School in this church. At the first it was closed during the most severe winter weather. The Sunday School is in session all the year round now. The enrollment is thirty. Mrs. Arnett McNeil is the Supt.

The Ladies of the church have a very active organization, the Ladies' Aid Society. The officers are:

President -- Mrs. S. R. Moore

Treasurer -- Mrs. A. R. Gay

Secretary -- Mrs. Elsie Van Reenan

This organization helps to pay the pastor's salary. They also keep the parsonage repaired and help to keep the church in good condition. The parsonage and about four acres of land belong to the church. The parsonage with the land is valued at $3500.00. Both the church and parsonage are free of debt. The church also supplies the pastor with a good cow.

In September, 1940 the parsonage caught on fire. All of the members of the household were sleeping soundly. Had it not been for the dog awakening the family, the consequences might have been more serious. As it was, most of the furniture on the first floor of the house was destroyed and the building was badly damaged. The building was covered by

insurance and so that was taken care of but there was no insurance on the furniture. The fire caught in the radio. The greatest loss was four or five very expensive stringed instruments. The Ladies' Aid gave a silver tea and with the receipts refurnished a part of the parsonage.

Last year the Ladies' Aid made eighty dollars and all of this was spent on the church and parsonage.

Mr. Skaggs has nine churches on his charge. For his services to all of these churches, he receives one thousand dollars per year, use of the parsonage, cow and some land which he farms. Each church pays a definite part of the pastor's salary, proportioned according to the active membership of the respective churches.

The Ladies' Aid Societies of the other churches on this charge contribute to the upkeep of the parsonage.

Information: Church records
Mrs. Adam Baxter
Mr. Anderson Barlow
Rev. R. H. Skaggs